

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT (PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference F17676 KCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/IB 03/05426	International filing date (day/month/year) 26.11.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 26.11.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A47F5/00		
Applicant MELTZER, Michael		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

 These annexes consist of a total of 4 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 24.06.2004	Date of completion of this report 08.12.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Alff, R Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2079 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/B 03/05426

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17):*

Description, Pages

1-11 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-10 received on 24.11.2004 with letter of 10.11.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/4-4/4 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/B 03/05426**

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-10
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-10
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-10
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/IB 03/05426

Re Item V

1. Reference is made to the following document:
D1: US 5 386 961 A
2. Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses a system for supporting at least one article including a support structure, a clamp attachable to the support structure and an article support formation attachable to the clamp from which the subject-matter of claim 1 differs in that the attachment formations in the form of a plurality of ridges of the clamp and the complementary recesses of the article support formation each have a dovetail cross-sectional profile.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

Such a dovetail cross-sectional profile of the attachment formation may provide more flexibility and durability on the resilient arms of the clamp. The use of a dovetail cross-sectional profile for an attachment formation in combination with a system for supporting at least one article is not disclosed, neither suggested in the available prior art. Claim 1 of the present application is therefore considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

3. Claims 2-10 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

Further remarks

1. The amended claim 5, filed with the letter dated 10. November 2004 introduce subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the application as filed, contrary to Articles 19(2) and 34(2)(b) PCT.
2. The so-called "omnibus-claims" 8-10 leave the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical features to which they refer, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of said claims unclear, Article 6 PCT.

REPLACED BY
ART 34 AMDT

CLAIMS

1. A system (10) for supporting at least one article, said system including:

a support structure including at least one elongate element (12);

at least one clamp (14) defining a recess (20) flanked by two resilient arms (22) and being removably attachable to the elongate element (12); and

an article support formation (16), attachable to the clamp (14), **characterised in that** the clamp 14 is removably attachable to the elongate element 12 by receiving the elongate element (12) in the recess (20) in a clipping fashion, and is releasably held in position on the elongate element (12) by inwardly resilience of the arms (22).

2. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 1, **characterised in that** the elongate element (12) has a predetermined cross-sectional profile and the clamp (14) defines a part complementary profile on an inner periphery of the recess (20).

3. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, **characterised in that** a number of element engagement formations (56) are provided on the inner periphery of the clamp recess (20), to engage an elongate element (12) resiliently.

4. A system (10) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** each arm (22) of the clamp (14) includes a guide element, defining a generally radially extending guide surface (74), at the end (28) of the arm (22), to assist in alignment of the elongate element (12) with an opening (38) defined between the ends (28) of the two arms (22), when receiving the elongate element (12) in the recess (20).
5. A system (10) as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3, **characterised in that** the clamp (14) includes a catch (26), attachable to ends (28) of the two arms (22) and configured to exert an inward bias on the ends (28) of the arms (22), to urge them closer together and thereby assist in holding the elongate element (12) in position within the recess (20).
6. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 5, **characterised in that** the catch (26) includes a main part (32), pivotally attachable to one arm (22) of the clamp (14), and a linkage part (30), pivotally attachable to the end (28) of the other arm (22) of the clamp (14), the main part (32) and linkage part (30) being pivotally connected, so that the catch (26) can operate in an over-centred configuration, in which the main part (32) and linkage part (30) can be oriented at a large angle relative to each other, when the catch (26) is in a free condition, and wherein the main part (32) and linkage part (30) can be oriented at a small angle relative to each other, when the catch (26) is in a gripping condition, with a resilient bias of the main part (30) retaining the catch (26) in the gripping condition.

REPLACED BY
ART 34 AMDT

7. A system (10) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** the support formation (16) defines at least one article engagement formation (40), for supporting an article.
8. A system (10) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** at least one attachment formation (24) is defined on an outer periphery of the clamp (14), to which at least one article support formation (16) is releasably attachable, by receiving the attachment formation (24) in a complementary formation (42), defined on the article support formation (16).
9. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 8, **characterised in that** attachment formations in the form of a plurality of ridges (24) are defined on the outer periphery of the clamp (14), and in that each article support formation (16) defines a complementary formation in the form of a recess (42), in which the ridges (24) are receivable in a sliding fashion.
10. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 9, **characterised in that** the ridges (24) and the complementary recesses (42) each have a dovetail cross-sectional profile.
11. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 7, **characterised in that** the article engagement formation (40) includes a container (60) defining a recess (61).

**REPLACED BY
ART 34 AMDT**

12. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 7, **characterised in that** the article engagement formation (40) includes a platform (58).
13. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 7, **characterised in that** the article engagement formation (40) includes a clamp (48).
14. A system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** it includes a light fitting (62), attachable to the clamp (14).
15. A clamp (14) as described in any one of the preceding claims.
16. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 1, substantially as herein described and illustrated.
17. A clamp (14) as claimed in Claim 15, substantially as herein described and illustrated.
18. A new support system or a new clamp, substantially as herein described.